THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India makes advance planning for increasing the production under kharif and rabi crops in the National Conference for Kharif/Rabi Campaigns. All aspects concerning agricultural and horticultural crops like availability of seeds, fertilizers, quality planting meterial, implements, advanced agricultural techniques, agriculture finance/credit, plant protection measures, pre and post harvest management, marketing, prices, storage are discussed with the State Governments, institutes/agencies, agriculture universities, banking sector and other agencies and decisions for remedial actions are taken accordingly. The National Conference for Kharif Campaign was held on 21-22 February, 2006 in New Delhi in which strategy to enhance production of kharif crops and horticultural crops including onion and potato in 2006-07 was discussed.

Aid to Consultative Group on International Research

†2405. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual amount of 2.5 million dollars given to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research by Government, so far, has been increased to the amount of 10 million dollars;

(b) if not, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said institution has benefited the Indian agriculture sector during the last five years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the contribution of these benefits in increasing agricultural production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There has been no increase in the amount of annual contribution to the CGIAR, which stands at US$0.75 million. But, as a result of high level discussion in this Department, it was

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

decided to provide funding support to the CGIAR against specific projects to gain a broader and more effective voice in deciding the research agenda of the CGIAR system and to seek answers to problems for which facilities and faculties are limited or need to be developed. After the proposal was placed before the EFC, EFC approved a sum of US$6.00 million to be spent for the purpose during the rest of the 10th Plan period.

(c) to (e) The productivity of two main crops rice and wheat have increased to almost double and four-fold respectively, ever since the introduction of the 'miracle seeds' of rice and wheat, ushering in 'green revolution' in the country. Hybrid of maize, namely, *Shaktiman-I and Shaktiman-2* containing high quantity of *trypotophan* and *lysine* have been developed and released for commercial cultivation. Hybrid rice technology has also been developed with the help of several parental lines and technologies developed by CGIAR. A number of superior varieties of chickpea *(channa)* including superior disease resistant varieties of pearlmillet *(bajra)* and sorghum *(jowar)* have been developed and released for commercial cultivation. Several projects have been undertaken for increasing the productivity and management of fish leading to enhanced fish production and generation of employment. With efficient management of natural resources under watershed management programme, and efficient ground water management and governance as also human resource development in the water management sector, water productivity in river basins have improved benefiting Indian agriculture over the years. Programmes are under process in the area of disease resistance against gastro-intestinal parasitism especially *Haemonchosis* and on control of methane production. These programmes would help in increasing the production and productivity of livestock.

New breeds of cows

†2406. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new breeds of cows have been developed by undertaking research in various universities of the country;

(b) the names of institutions that have developed these cows during 2002-2005 alongwith the names of their breeds;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.